

SITUATION REPORT NO. 03
INCIDENT NO. 2001- 087
DATE: August 10, 2001 TIME: 3:00 p.m.

TO: Governor John Hoeven
State Capitol
Bismarck, N.D. 58505

1. NATURE OF DISASTER: Severe summer storm with high winds.
2. DEATHS AND INJURIES: No change from previous reports.
3. DAMAGES: Stutsman County officials reported structural damage occurred during severe thunderstorms on August 7-8. During the August 7 storm, wind gusts up to 65 miles per hour (mph) were recorded in the city of Jamestown. A 28-foot high block wall collapsed in a gymnasium under construction at a Jamestown elementary school. Some tree branches and electrical power lines were downed at various locations. During the August 8 storm, 2.5 inches of rain fell within 30 minutes in the Spiritwood Lake area. Dime-sized hail was reported in various locations around the Jamestown area. Wind gusts at Jamestown were reported as high as 55 mph on August 8. Temporary power outages were reported in many areas of the city.

The early morning August 8 storm in Traill County caused damage to roofs, siding and windows of 200 private residences in the city of Hillsboro. Officials for the State Electrical Board reported that six homes in Hillsboro were still without power. Three miles north of Hillsboro, a grain elevator and three bins were damaged. A fourth grain bin was destroyed. The N.D. Department of Transportation (DOT) reported that a one-quarter mile section of N.D. Highway 200 is temporarily closed due to the damaged grain facility. A total of 64,000 bushels of barley were destroyed. Damage also occurred to an elevator and auger system in the Clifford area. In the Mayville and Portland areas, approximately 200 homes received minor damage.

Griggs County officials reported 70 mph winds, accompanied by hail, caused major damage to crops during the morning of August 8.

An initial damage assessment by the American Red Cross indicated that the windstorm on the evening of August 8 caused major damage to eight single-family dwellings and 14 manufactured homes in the city of Grand Forks. A total of 173 manufactured homes had minor damage. As of August 10, 5,000 residents were without power. Excel Energy reported that up to 250 electrical inspections are needed. City officials plan to evaluate the necessity of continuing water restrictions. Three lift stations are still operating on backup power. Officials for the city of Gilby reported crop destruction and damage to every home within the city.

N.D. Parks and Recreation Department staff reported that trees were downed throughout Turtle River State Park after the August 8 evening windstorm. Power was out on the west side of the park, requiring a residence and the maintenance shop to operate on auxiliary power. No personal injury or damages to visitors'

personal property were reported. An assessment of other park damage is ongoing, and cleanup is underway. Campsites are serviceable as are other park use areas.

Minnkota Power Cooperative reported that a double circuit transmission line and 15 poles were damaged north of Grand Forks on the evening of August 8. The company places damages at \$150,000.

Thunderstorms on the evening of August 8 downed approximately 1.5 miles of power lines near Maddock in Benson County. Residents were without power for approximately 45 minutes. High winds knocked the top leg off the Maddock elevator and destroyed a quonset north of the city. South of Minnewaukan, power lines were also knocked down. Power has since been rerouted and restored throughout the county. High winds and hail flattened many acres of cropland. An Oberon farmer reported that both doors of his barn were torn off and trees were uprooted.

Central Power Electric Cooperative officials estimate repair costs at \$250,000 for 24 structures and a 69 kilovolt (KV) line damaged on the evening of August 8 in the Maddock area.

Ramsey County officials reported that some roads were closed in the city of Devils Lake after 0.85 inches of rain fell in a 30-minute period during the evening of August 8.

High winds caused severe damage in the Barnes County community of Fingal and the surrounding area during the evening of August 8. The roof on the old school and the doors of the elevator were destroyed. Uprooted or broken trees blocked most streets. An abandoned home was destroyed when struck by a falling tree. Several barns were blown down in the area. Power poles and lines were damaged or destroyed. Officials expected power to be restored to most residents late afternoon on August 9.

Valley City, located in Barnes County, received high winds and hail during the evening of August 8. The storm toppled several trees and damaged power lines. Service has since been restored.

High winds and heavy rains occurred throughout Cass County during the evening of August 8. Wind velocities up to 80 miles per hour (mph) damaged a large grain bin and a storage building in the town of Alice. Twelve power poles were also reported damaged or destroyed in the Alice area. Debris, resulting from trees that fell, broke, or lost large limbs, is being removed in the cities of Alice, Chaffee, Lynchburg, Kindred, Horace, and Oxbow. At this time significant damage to homes has not been reported. Power outages were reported in the cities of Kindred, Alice, Horace, Oxbow, Gardner, Grandin and Fargo. At noon on August 9, power had not been restored to residents of Alice. The Fargo Police and Fire Departments employed backup generators to supply power in order to continue operations. Several downed trees blocked roadways in Fargo and caused sporadic power outages. One traffic signal light near North Dakota State University was toppled. Heavy rainfall produced some roadway flooding in the city.

In an eight county area, Cass County Electric Cooperative estimates up to \$50,000 in total damage to its system.

In Dickey County, thunderstorms on August 8-9 produced 60 mph winds and rain. One roof was blown off a machine shed located northwest of Ellendale. Numerous electrical outages occurred for up to three hours. The Farmers Union Grain Terminal at Monango lost a 30-ton fertilizer hopper and a 90,000-bushel bin along with its 20,000 bushel contents. Rainfall ranged from 0.75 to 1.25 inches.

McIntosh County officials reported trees and power lines were downed during an August 8-9 storm. Wind speeds up to 70 mph and rainfall amounts of one to 1.5 inches were reported. Power outages lasted for several hours, and some residents are without cable and telephone service.

A United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Flash Situation Report indicated that crop loss in Cass County, due to strong winds and heavy rain on August 8, totaled 211,800 acres distributed among 1,200 farms. The report for Griggs County pointed out high winds and hail measuring one to 2.25 inches in diameter damaged homes, farm buildings, and destroyed 9,191 crop acres spread among 35 farms. In Traill County, 425 farms suffered a loss of 284,000 crop acres due to straight-line winds with speeds up to 110 mph.

Devils Lake at Creel Bay measured 1.447.98 feet this morning, a 0.12-foot decrease during the previous 24 hours. Stump Lake measured 1,412.26 feet today, a 0.14-foot decrease during the previous 24 hours.

4. RESOURCES:

LOCAL: Local agencies include: aging services offices, public works departments, law enforcement agencies, communications centers, emergency management offices, fire and rescue, ambulance services, city and county commissions and administrative offices.

STATE: The Governor's Office, N.D. National Guard, State Radio Communications, N.D. Department of Human Services, the N.D. Highway Patrol, N.D. Department of Transportation, N.D. State Electrical Board, N.D. Forest Service, N.D. Attorney General's Office and N.D. Division of Emergency Management are providing assistance.

FEDERAL: The National Weather Service (NWS) and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) are monitoring conditions.

5. VOLUNTEER ACTION: The Fingal Fire Department conducted a check on all residents to assure public safety was maintained.

Personnel from the West Fargo and Kindred Fire Departments checked for possible transformer fires on power line poles.

Rural Cass County fire departments and other SKYWARN weather spotters reported storm conditions and developmental patterns.

American Red Cross is sheltering 11 Grand Forks area families in hotels. The mass care center at the Alerus Center will be open today. The Tennis Fitness Center is open to the public for showers.

A Granite Falls, MN, tree service is donating the services of 16 employees and the use of six aerial trucks, loaders and chippers.

6. MAJOR ACTIONS: In Fingal, a backup generator was deployed to power the lift station. The Barnes County Public Works Department and contractors have cleared the streets. Utility service providers are working to restore power in Fingal and the surrounding area.

Fargo Public Works personnel are removing debris blocking city streets.

City of Fingal officials issued an emergency declaration on August 8.

Benson County officials issued an emergency declaration because of damages sustained during the August 8 storm.

With the exception of two soldiers, the National Guard teams have completed their assignment in Hillsboro. The remaining team, with its one piece of equipment, will conclude its work later today.

The Grand Forks County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) will operate 24-hours a day this weekend.

7. ASSISTANCE NEEDED: No additional requests have been received.
8. OUTSIDE HELP ON SCENE: No change from previous reports.
9. OTHER: Appropriate state and local emergency operations plans have been implemented.

Situation Reports published by North Dakota Emergency Management are posted on the Division's Internet home page. The address is <http://www.state.nd.us/dem>.

Douglas C. Friez, State Director